

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4244

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT,PGOV, IN

SUBJECT: JANATA CHIEF MINISTERS ELECTED

REF: NEW DELHI 8820

1. JANATA MLA'S IN THE SEVEN STATES WHERE THE PARTY WON
OUTRIGHT MAJORITIES IN THE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS ELECTED THEIR
LEGISLATIVE PARTY LEADERS ON JUNE 21. THESE LEADERS ARE
EXPECTED TO FORM MINISTRIES IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. SEVERAL
OF THE NEW CHIEF MINISTERS ARE "OUTSIDERS" IN THAT THEY ARE
CURRENTLY MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT AND WILL HAVE TO CONTEST AND WIN
STATE LEGISLATIVE SEATS WITHIN SIX MONTHSM ALL OF THE SEVEN
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FORMERLY BELONGED TO EITHER THE JAN SANG OR BLD; ONE, HOWEVER,
HAD BEEN EARLIER ASSOCIATED WITH THE SOCIALIST PARTY. ALTHOUGH
IN SEVERAL CASES THE ACKNOWLEDGED "STRONG MAN" OF THE JANATA
PARTY HAS BEEN ELECTED, INOTHERS THE NEW CHIEF MINISTERS ARE
RELATIVELY UNKNOWN, THUS SUGGESTING TO SOME OBSERVERS THAT
THEY MAY BE SURROGATES FOR THEIR POWERFUL MENTORS AT THE
CENTER. THE NEW CHIEF MINISTERS ARE:

2. BIHAR: KARPOORI THAKUR, FORMERLY A MEMBER OF THE BLD AND CURRENTLY A JANATA MEMBER OF THE LOK SABHA. LIKE UNION MINISTER RAJ NARAIN, THAKUR WAS A PROMINENT SOCIALIST LEADER FOR MANY YEARS BEFORE JOINING THE BLD. THAKUR'S POLITICAL CAREER HAS BEN MOSTLY IN BIHAR STATE POLITICS, AND FOR ELEVEN MONTHS IN 1971 HE SERVED AS CHIEF MINISTER OF THE SVD GOVERNMENT. ALTHOUGH NO OFFICIAL FIGURES WERE RELEASED, THAKUR REPORTEDLY DEFEATED HIS ONLY RIVAL, SATYENDRA NARAIN SINGH, BY 144 TO 84 VOTES..

3. HARYANA; DEVI LAL, FORMERLY OF THE BLD, WAS ELECTED UNANIMOUSLY AND SWORN IN AS CHIEF MINISTER OF JUNE 21. HIS ELECTION HAD BEEN WIDELY RUMORED FOR SEVERAL WEEKS, SINCE HE IS THE ACKNOWLEDGED JANATA "STRONG MAN" IN HARYANA AND A PROMINENT JAT LEADER.

4. HIMACHAL PRADESH: SHANTA KUMAR, A FORMER MEMBER OF THE JAN SANGH, WAS ELECTED, DEFEATING HIS ONLY RIVAL BY 28 VOTES TO 25.

5. MADHYA PRADESH: KAILASH JOSHI, FORMERLY OF THE JAN SANGH, AND A LAST-MINUTE CANDIDATE FOR THE LEADERSHIP. IN A SOMEWHAT UNEXPECTED DEVELOPMENT, HIS PRINCIPAL RIVAL, FELLOW JAN SANGHI V. K. SAKHLECHA, WITHDREW FROM THE CONTEST, THUS ENSURING JOSHI'S ELECTION.
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6. ORISSA: NILAMANI ROUTROY, A FORMER MEMBER OF THE BLD AND A PROTEGE OF ORISSA JANATA BOSS BIJU PATNAIK, WAS ELECTED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. RAJASTHAN: BHAIRON SINGH SHEKHAWAT, FORMERLY OF THE JAN SANGH AND CURRENTLY A MEMBER OF THE RAJYA SABHA. A KEEN CONTEST WAS DEVELOPING FOR THE LEADERSHIP, BUT SHEKHAWAT HAS BEEN THE ODDS-ONFAVORITE FOR THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS DUE TO THE PREDOMINANCE OF JAN SANGHIS AMONG THE JANATA MLA'S. HE HANDILY DEFEATED HIS ONLY RIVAL, CONGRESS (O) LEADER MASTER ADITYENDRA, BY 122 TO 27 VOTES.

8. U. P. RAM NARESH YADAV, A FORMER MEMBER OF THE BLD AND CURRENTLY A JANATA MP IN THE LOK SABHA. SPECULATION HAS BEEN WIDE-SPREAD FOR SEVERAL WEEKS ON THE POSSIBLE CONTENDERS FOR THE CHIEF MINISTERSHIP OF INDIA'S LARGEST STATE. IN THE END, IT CAME DOWN TO A STRAIGHT CONTEST BETWEEN YADAV AND FELLOW MP RAM DHAN, WHO IS A FORMER CONGRESSMAN AND FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE JANATA PARTY. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, JAN SANGH AND BLD MLA'S, WITH SCATTERED SUPPORT FROM CONGRESS (O) AND SOCIALISTS, GAVE YADAV A MARGIN OF

VICTORY OF 277 TO 103 VOTES. YADAV IS LITTLE KNOWN OUTSIDE OF U.P. STATE POLITICS. HIS VICTORY IS SEEN AS A BLOW FOR CONGRESS (O) LEADER AND FORMER CHIEF MINISTER C. B. GUPTA, WHO HAD THROWN HIS SUPPORT BEHIND RAM DHAN.

9. IN OTHE STATES, PRAKASH SINGH BADAL WAS SWORN IN AS WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER ON JUNE 21; HIS FIRST ACT WAS TO DECLARE AN AMNESTY FOR ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS, INCLUDING NAXALITES, NOW CURRENTLY SERVING IN JAIL. WE WILL REPEAT CALCUTTA'S SEPTTEL ON THIS SUBJECT TO DEPARTMENT. IN TAMIL NADU, AIADMK CHIEF M. G. RAMACHANDRAN IS EXPECTEC TO BECOME CHIEF MINISTER AND FORM A GOVERNMENT ON JUNE 30.

10. WE EXPECT TO DEVELOP FURTHER INFORMATION AS TO HOW THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CHIEF MINISTERS WERE CHOSEN AND THE IMPLICATIONS OF THEIR SELECTION FOR THE RELATIVE STRENGHT OF THE VARIOUS JANATA NATIONAL LEADERS AND THEIR FACTIONS. WE PLAN TO SUBMIT A MORE COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT OF THIS AND OTHER POST-STATE ELECTION DEVELOPMENTS IN A SEPARATE MESSAGE IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.
GOHEEN

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